Amendments to the Specification

Please add at page 1, line 6, above "Background of the Invention," the following paragraph:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/419,985 filed on October 21, 2002. The entire disclosure and contents of the above application is hereby incorporated by reference. --

Please add the following paragraph at page 7, line 15, before the last paragraph:

--The combination of elements of the present invention comes together to store painting tools in a substantially water-tight and air-tight manner within a paint container. To use the paint lid of the present invention, a container is covered with the lid having a base, lip, hatch, and strap previously described. Once the lid is in place covering the container opening, the flexible strap is cinched into a substantially water-tight configuration by closing the fastening mechanism and thus holding the lip tightly against the container. After the lid is sealed in place, at least one painting tool such as a paint brush or paint roller is inserted through said hatch and the handle of each tool is inserted within a slot and corresponding gasket slit along the first side of the hatch. The gasket snugly grips the tool handles to hold them in place and to further contribute to the air-tightness of the lid. The open hatch is then covered by closing the hatch cover over the hatch. The fastening mechanism on the hatch cover engages the corresponding fastening mechanism on the periphery of the hatch to hold the hatch cover in place. The hatch cover is simple to close as it functions as a door attached by hinges to the lid. The slots holding the painting tools hold the tools at a location that does not interfere with opening or closing the hatch cover. If desired, a hinge cover can be placed over the hatch cover hinge in order to further provide for an air-tight environment within the container.--